

Is It an Evil Fetish?

It is Viewed from V
points.

in a power outside of ourselves
kind of awe and gratitude felt
power; some kind of influence
by it over our lives. There are
elements: belief, worship, con-
Fred Harrison, in *Popular Science*
ly, August, 1884.

which represents religion, is an
gusher."

If liberty is a boon, if republicanism a thing to be prized, then religion's fetters must be spurned with indignant aversion. The woe-begotten roadway of religion's past hinders

Profr Elliott, in the Princeton *Record*, says: "A hundred years ago, at Harvard, Yale and Princeton, the graduates were reciprocally, 29, 32 and 45 per cent. Now they have dropped off so that

is so manifest a reasoner, a master of unsurpassed rhetoric and so profound a thinker, should not see the hollow and unloveliness of religion. Not its utter barrenness, but its past history of blood, torture, anguish and human woe, its unabated spirit of oppression, its unrelenting selfishness.

be for the apologists of it to maintain their claim and a sober face while hold front of this divine break-down stares at them, and in effect blurts the vulgar *sequitur*, "you lie."

Stockton, Cal. A. S. HUDSON, M.

become very careful as to the source of any statement given, and the habitual liar and slanderer will be gibbeted accordingly.

J. D. BUCK, M. D., T. T. S.

THE PROGRESSIVE THINKER has been sustained on its merits alone, advertisements

Wrecked her pedagogue dream,
Turned to show her rosy blushes,
By a fate that young life crushes,
And her rival, tall and scraggy,
In her garments loose and baggy,
Cross-eyed Sarah Ann Miranda
In the schoolroom reigned supreme.
—*Marshall Parn-Rove in New York Sun*

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And I am pleased to say my name is
Sarah Ann Miranda Gray.
So sweet Kittle was rejected,
Wrecked her pedagogic dream,
Turned to show her rosy blushes.
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—Marshall Parnes in *New York Times*

THE PROGRESSIVE THINKER.

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J. H. Francis, Editor and Publisher.

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OUR FALL CAMPAIGN!

Will be Announced Next Week.

Laws Relating to Blasphemy.

Through the kindness of Hon. A. B. Richmond, of Meadville, Pa., we are in the possession of the statute law now in force in the Keystone State relating to blasphemy. It originally became the law of that State in 1700, near the commencement of its provincial history. So late as 1800, it was re-enacted, and was published on page 302, pamphlet laws of that session, and still remains in force. Showing the methods of the State as well as Catholics have employed to fetter the mind, it is valuable at this time:

"Sec. 32. If any person shall willfully, premeditatedly and deliberately blaspheme, or speak loosely and profanely of Almighty God, Christ Jesus, the Holy Spirit, or the Holy Scriptures of Truth, such person on conviction thereof shall be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars, and undergo an imprisonment not exceeding three months, or either, at the discretion of the court."

Similar statutory provisions are now in force in nearly all the States bordering on the Atlantic. It has been rare of late to prosecute offenders under the act; but it remains as a menace to free speech. It was borrowed from an English statute so ancient as to be recognized as a part of the common law. It did include the denying of the Holy Trinity, and was interpreted to include writing against Christianity; but in 1813 Parliament excepted from the provisions of the law "the denying of the Holy Trinity."

We are able to trace the germs of this ancient statute back to the days of Constantine. Thus for fifteen hundred years the strong arm of law has been employed to fetter the mind, until the right to do so seems inherent to those entertaining certain religious beliefs.

The force of such odious statutes has been broken. Nearly all of the Western States have failed to incorporate laws into their statute books for the protection of God Almighty. Such is the case in Illinois. Such will be the case everywhere when reason is fully enthroned. If the Sovereign Ruler of the Universe, with all the elements at his command, needs the laws of man to maintain his dignity, then he is not the Infinite being he has been represented.

Possibly Another Christian War.

Suppose an American Spiritualist or Infidel lecturer was to visit China for propaganda purposes, and should bring down upon him the hate of the Celestials, and his final death by violence, who is so silly as to suppose the American Government would take any official action in the premises? He had taken his own life in his hands, and if those he would indoctrinate with his views should be killed, it was just what he should have expected. It was no more than his Christian neighbors would have done by him a little while ago.

The *News* of this city reported the other day an interview with Miss Barrett, who has just returned from a year's sojourn in Hong Kong, China. She is reported to have said:

"Yes, China is like a bubbling, threatening volcano. War between the Celestial Empire and any of the European powers may be expected any time. The United States, too, may have a hand in the fight. In the vicinity of Canton, the revolutionists are pillaging, burning and murdering right and left. Everywhere that happens to be in the way of the rebels is sacrificed, be it an American or a European. This cannot continue. When I left, the Russian and English men-of-war were being concentrated in Hong Kong harbor. At Yokohama, Japan, the harbor was filled with warships. The cause of the trouble? Well, the natives seemed to have reached a frenzied state of mind, brought about by the various missionaries. John does not take kindly to the various creeds, when they are fired at him in one volley. Then the missionaries have invaded the interior. . . . The Chinese won't see the Europeans infringe upon their customs. And the Europeans look smilingly on."

The Way to Christianize Africa.

The *Christian at Work* says Bishop Taylor, who is engaged in Christianizing Africa, is buying up negro girls, paying \$20 a head for them, to rear under Christian influence, and in Christian schools, to afterwards use them as instrumentalities in the extension of the gospel. It was Columbus, the discoverer of America, in whose honor the World's Fair is to be held, who devised this process for making Christians. The great explorer had captured and made slaves of a large number of Caribs. These he proposed to exchange with Spanish merchants for the slaves to be transported to the new colonies. He suggested that the heathen thus exchanged would be converted to Christianity and the royal treasury would be enriched by the duty on slaves.

Meetings in This City.

The Spiritualists of this city will regular meetings on Sunday as follows:

F. O. A. Hall, corner of Washington and Adams streets, at 10:30 and 7:30.

The People's Spiritual Society, under the supervision of Mr. J. J. Williams, will hold services at Brooklyn Hall, 10 South La Salle street, at 7:30.

Services are held each Sunday evening at 8:00 West Lake street. A. J. Williams, President.

The First Spiritual Alliance Society of Chicago will hold a meeting at 2:30 in the hall at 10 South La Salle street.

The Philadelphia Spiritual Society meets at Arlington Hall, Indiana street and Thirty-third street, at 10:30.

The First North Side Spiritual Society will hold services at 7:30 Thirty-third street, at 8:00.

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In Treason.

A telegram from Berlin on the 23d ult., stated that 100,000 pilgrims passed Cologne the day before on their way to Treves to see the Holy Coat on exhibition at the cathedral in that city. It also stated that a textile manufacturer who was summoned to examine the precious relic, found it so badly in tatters that it could not be placed on exhibition until an agent run ginned the fragments together.

Dr. Beck, who examined the reverse side of the rag, found it mounted on byssus silk, which must have been made before the 15th century, and was extremely costly. Was it "our Lord" who was dressed in fine silk, but had not where to lay his head? We thought it was the other fellow, he who was sent to hell, and was denied a drop of water, that fared sumptuously every day.

The trouble is we can't always tell. If the poor would do full justice to the subject of these shameful frauds would ever be shown again. But the wretches who are making this exhibition have such power over the courts and the people that they absolutely caused to be arrested and imprisoned a doubting Thomas who did not believe Jesus ever saw the coat.

General Survey.

The Spiritualistic Field—Workers, Doings, Etc.

A subscriber writes: "The First Spiritualistic Society of Chicago held an enthusiastic meeting Sept. 10, at the hall No. 11 N. Ada St. Mrs. Dr. DeLacour introduced to the audience Lady Labrey, who read a very appropriate poem, and Mr. Robert A. Campbell, who skillfully and scientifically answered questions for members of the society, filling all present with enthusiasm. Interesting remarks were made by Mr. Collins, Dr. Lewis and others. Tests were given by Mrs. Andrews, Mrs. Cutler and Mrs. Boardwell, all of which were recognized. Mrs. Cole has returned and is engaged to render vocal and instrumental music for the entire season by this society. Mr. Campbell has kindly consented to speak for us next Sunday."

Prof. Geo. P. Rudolph expects to take a trip soon through Western Ohio. Every Spiritualist ought to hear him speak.

F. Condon White, the lecturer and test medium, is now located at Salt Lake City, Utah. He can be addressed there in care of Box 933.

G. W. Kates and wife have secured Keystone Hall, corner Third St. and Grand Ave., Philadelphia, for Sunday night meetings, and further notice. They held the first service Sunday, Sept. 6th, and were greeted by a goodly-sized audience. We expect much good to result from these meetings.

Will C. Hodge, Secretary of the Clinton camp meeting, will make his headquarters for a time at Davenport, Ia. Dr. Reddington, of Blue Springs, Mo., writes: "In your issue of the 5th inst. R. M. Williams wishes to know if the death of John O. Sullivan, as reported by him, occurred in 1855 as stated. The whole statement is correct."

H. D. Hall, of Grand Lodge, Mich., writes: "Hon. Charles Howell, of Grand Rapids, Mich., gave us an intellectual and spiritual treat yesterday which can not be expressed on paper. 'To be appreciated it needs to be heard.' Mr. Howell lectured to an intelligent and highly appreciative audience here in the forenoon and afternoon, on the subject, 'Know Thyself; or How to Be Saved'; and he showed in a concise manner, illustrated by pencil drawings made by himself, the mental and spiritual development of man from birth, or differentiation from Infinite Spirit, to mental and spiritual perfection in Spirit-life. He gave us the most hard facts and undebatable truths that ever were packed into a four-hour talk. His explanation of the origin and the use of humanity of the commandments was the best we ever heard, and I wish every man and woman in the world could be made to read it. It was well worthy of the careful consideration of every thinking man. A born orator, Mr. Howell at once secured the attention of the audience, took them to the crest of the wave, and there, with his logic, reason and eloquence, held them spell-bound to the end of his lecture. He informs us that he has entered the arena for truth and reform, and to teach men and women to develop themselves in love and principle, and thus save themselves from sin."

W. Q. Judge, Gen. Secy. of the American Section of the Theosophical Society, passed through Chicago on the 9th inst., en route for the Pacific coast. He will stay a few days in this city, on his way back, sometime in October.

Dr. Carr, who has been located temporarily in this city, has returned to Springfield, Ill., where he has been doing efficient work. 'The Monitor' speaks of him as follows: "The First Society of Springfield, Ill., held a highly interesting meeting Sunday evening. Dr. Carr delivered a very admirable address on the subject of 'Mediums, their Work, Trials, etc.' He had been a Spiritualist and in recognized communication with spirit guides for over thirty years, and now he moved, from the fullness of his love for humanity, to give forth the gifts of truth which he has gathered by actual observation and experience."

Mrs. Carrie Firth, of Cold Water, Mich., an efficient worker in the cause of reform, was in the city last week. She will make Toledo, Ohio, her headquarters for a time.

A Merciful Providence.

The *Monitor* says that at his speech at Newburg the President spoke of a lofty strain of the great majority of God, saying that "our fields have produced even as great for our abundance," and, in the same sentence, that therefore the "nations of Europe by reason of crop failures must look to us to feed their people." Truly the nations of Europe must think God merciful to give them a famine in order that he may dispose of our breadstuffs at high prices. Those who praise so much about divine providence don't seem to know what they are talking about.

Abraham Lincoln and Spiritualism.

For many years, as is well known, the press of the country has been very much interested in the statements made at various times, that Abraham Lincoln was a Spiritualist, although until this present occasion no verified statement has made its appearance. Mrs. Nettie Colburn Maynard, of White Plains, New York, has at last completed her interesting and remarkable history of her connection with Abraham Lincoln, and is about to present it in book form to an expectant public. The world will readily endorse the fact, that in the present, as in the past, the history which is most strange is likewise most true, and that today is the day of wonders, and that decade more prolific in curious instances than that of any previous epoch. Abraham Lincoln was the most prominent President that America knew. His official and unofficial actions have been the constant theme of biographers and historians since the hour of his assassination and the fondness of Americans for him is as warm and united today as though he had died but yesterday.

The fact

